

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 2362

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, UNGA, RQ, CH
SUBJ: APPROACH TO PRC ON PUERTO RICO

REF: STATE 188247

1. AMBASSADOR PRESENTED A COPY OF PRESIDENT'S PROCLAMATION ON PUERTO RICO DURING AUGUST 1 MEETING WITH MFA AMERICAN AND OCEANIAN DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR LIN PING. AMBASSADOR DREW ON TALKING POINTS IN REFTEL, STRESSING U.S. SUPPORT FOR PUERTO RICAN SELF-DETERMINATION, PREVIOUS OPPORTUNITIES THE PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE HAVE HAD TO EXPRESS THEMSELVES ON THE QUESTION OF INDEPENDENCE, AND OUR STRONG VIEW THAT THIS IS A DOMESTIC QUESTION OUTSIDE THE JURISDICTION OF THE U.N. COMMITTEE. HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE PRC GOVERNMENT WOULD SUPPORT EFFORTS WITHIN THE COMMITTEE OF 24 TO AVOID APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION ON PUERTO RICO THIS YEAR. IN ADDITION, HE DREW ATTENTION TO THE CONNECTION BETWEEN CUBA'S PURSUIT OF THE PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE QUESTION AND HAVANA'S DESIRE TO INCREASE ITS INFLUENCE IN THE CARIBBEAN AREA. HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT MOST THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES HAD EITHER VOTED WITH US OR ABSTAINED ON LAST YEAR'S ADJOURNMENT RESOLUTION.

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2. IN REPLY, LIN STATED THAT THE AMBASSADOR WAS AWARE OF THE CHINESE CONSISTENT POSITION OF SUPPORT FOR THE NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE OF PEOPLES, INCLUDING THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO. THIS POSITION HAD BEEN EXPRESSED AT VARIOUS UNITED NATIONS MEETINGS AND HAS NOT CHANGED. HE STATED HE WOULD NEVERTHELESS REPORT THE AMBASSADOR'S REMARKS TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER.

3. COMMENT: WHILE LIN MADE NO COMMENT HIMSELF ON THE CUBAN-PUERTO RICAN QUESTION, THE PROBLEM OF CUBAN INFLUENCE IN THE CARIBBEAN WILL HAVE BEEN VERY MUCH ON THE MINDS OF VICE PREMIER KENG PIAO AND VICE FOREIGN MINISTER WANG HAI-JUNG DURING THEIR VISIT LAST MONTH TO THREE CARIBBEAN NATIONS. DESPITE THE PRC'S DISTASTE FOR CUBAN ACTIVITIES, HOWEVER, CHINESE POLICY ON THE PUERTO RICAN QUESTION HAS IN THE PAST BEEN BASED ON ITS SUPPORT FOR THIRD WORLD ISSUES AND ITS IDEOLOGICAL OPPOSITION TO SITUATIONS THAT IN ITS VIEW REPRESENT "VESTIGES OF COLONIALISM". THUS WE WOULD NOT EXPECT THE PRC TO SUPPORT US ON THIS QUESTION; THE BEST TO BE HOPED FOR, PROBABLY, IS PRC ABSTENTION ON A PROCEDURAL VOTE IF A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF NON-ALIGNED STATES DO THE SAME.
WOODCOCK

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